

The President's Daily Brief

29 September 1971

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Some official Chinese explanation for the decision to curtail National Day celebrations may be available today. (Page 1)

Additional Vietnamese Communist forces that have been in Cambodia may be moving back toward the South Vietnamese border. (Page 2)

In Laos, government soldiers and irregulars have been consolidating their recent gains on the Plaine des Jarres and around Paksong. (Page 3)

On Page 4, we discuss the current status of the East Pakistani refugees in India and of the Bangla Desh leadership.

Further details on the British decision to expel Soviet officials accused of espionage are reported on Page 5.

The Soviets have been warning Arab Communists that the recently formed Federation of Arab Republics will pursue a strong anti-Communist line. (Page 6)

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COMMUNIST CHINA

The official explanation for at least some of the circumstances behind the regime's decision to curtail National Day celebrations may be presented this morning. According to a Canton television announcement yesterday, the station is scheduled to carry a special relay from Peking at 7:00 AM Washington time.



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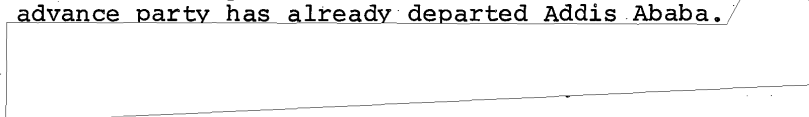
There is tentative evidence that the situation in China is having an impact on the conduct of foreign relations.

[redacted], China's foreign trade minister will visit only France during his current trip abroad, canceling previously planned visits to Italy and Algeria. The minister left for Paris on 27 September and is expected to remain there until 11 October, when he will return directly to China. Italian and Algerian officials have not yet confirmed the cancellations.

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There has been no reported change, however, in Haile Selassie's scheduled trip to China next week. He is still expected to arrive on 6 October, and an advance party has already departed Addis Ababa.

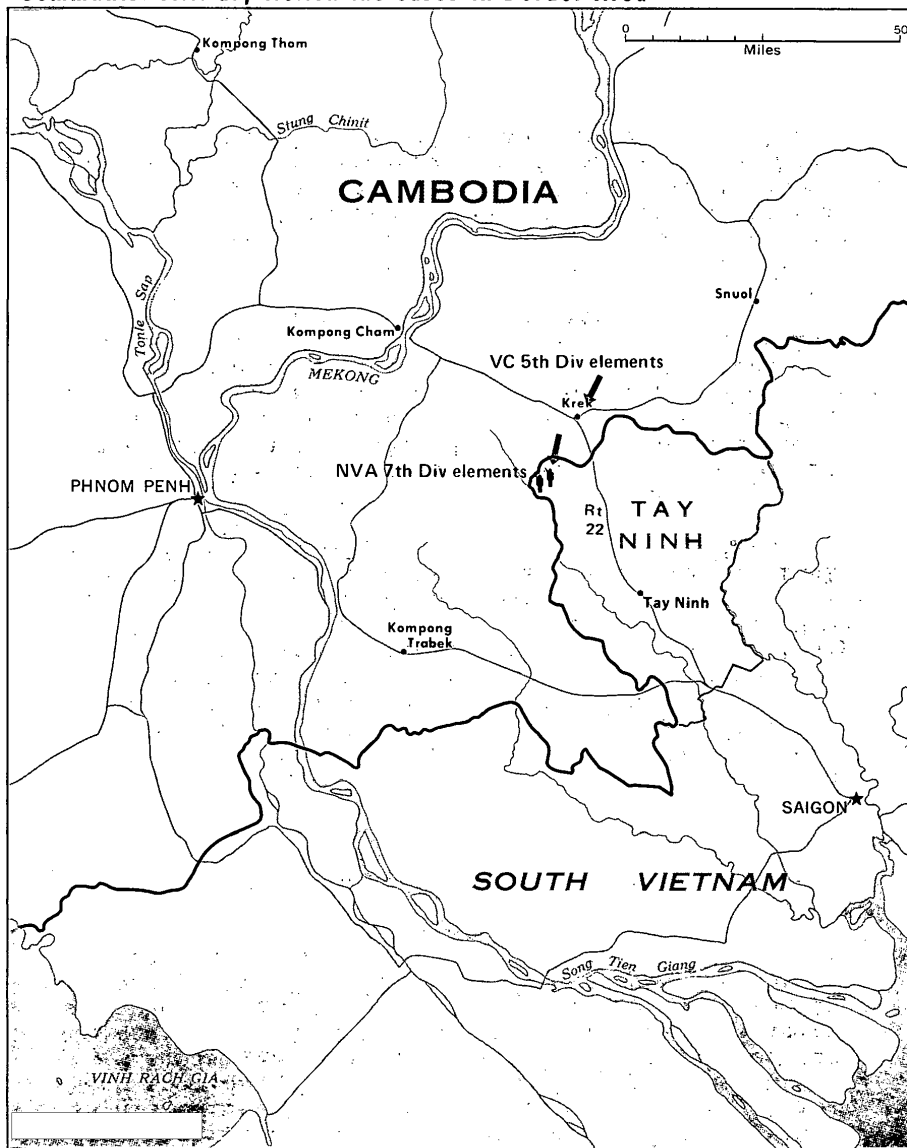


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Communist Military Action Increases in Border Area



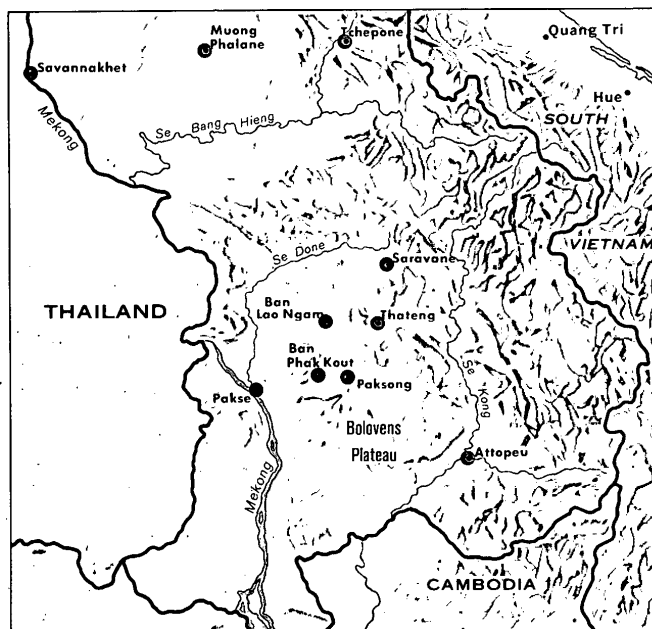
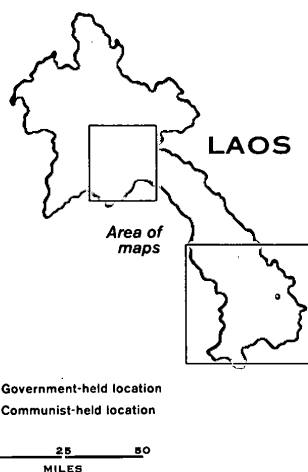
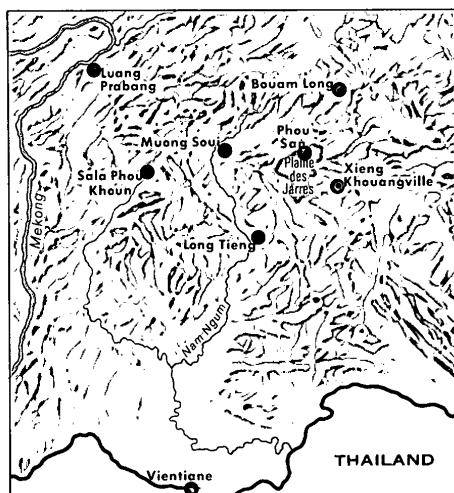
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SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

In addition to the movements by elements of the North Vietnamese 7th Division into Tay Ninh Province, reported in The President's Daily Brief yesterday, a regiment of the Vietnamese Communist 5th Division in Cambodia has moved some 11 miles closer to the South Vietnamese border. Another regiment from the 5th Division may have been involved in the recent enemy attacks near Krek.

In the recent fighting in the border area, the Communists have blocked sections of Route 22--the major north-south land link between Tay Ninh City and South Vietnamese forces operating near Krek in Cambodia. General Minh, who commands South Vietnamese forces in this region and the Saigon area, has sent in forces from his 18th Division and from the Airborne Brigade to reopen this road.



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LAOS

The town of Muong Soui, west of the Plaine des Jarres, was retaken in an assault by government irregulars on 24 September and is now being held by some 400 Lao Army troops. Just north of the Plaine, the irregulars have so far been unsuccessful in their attempts to reoccupy high ground positions near Phou San. According to US pilots, the North Vietnamese appear to be moving increasing amounts of supplies to forward positions north and east of the Plaine.

[redacted] at least some Communist units have lost supplies and suffered casualties as a result of government air and artillery strikes. These, together with their losses to Vang Pao's units on the Plaine, may cause some delays in the Communist dry season operations.

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In southern Laos, government forces are consolidating their positions in and around Paksong. They now hold most of the high ground near the town, but North Vietnamese troops have so far thwarted their efforts to open Route 23 between Ban Phak Kout and Paksong.

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INDIA-PAKISTAN

According to Indian data, the influx of refugees from East Pakistan passed the nine million mark last week. Indian officials and international observers agree that the current rate is about 30,000 per day, a figure likely to increase with the receding of flood waters next month.

Recent refugees indicate that the depredations by Pakistani troops and fighting between the army and Bengali guerrillas are the major reasons for their flight. American priests still in the East wing have stated that large numbers of young men also have left East Pakistan because of fears of being recruited into the service of the Martial Law Administration.

Aid pledged for the refugees now amounts to slightly over \$200 million. Some \$114 million has been channeled through the UN, and \$92 million has been pledged in bilateral arrangements between India and other governments or by voluntary agencies. US aid accounts for almost 40 percent of total aid extended to date.

* * *

Factions persist among Bangla Desh politicians in India, and there appears to be a gap between them and the Mukti Bahini guerrillas inside East Pakistan. This situation in turn is causing some of the Mukti Bahini to look more favorably on the Moscow-oriented and other radicals in the movement, who apparently still operate some guerrilla training camps. India had hoped to keep radicals in line by encouraging their participation in the multiparty Bangla Desh "liberation front" formed earlier this month (see The President's Daily Brief of 13 September), but the success of this Indian tactic is far from assured as the radicals gain new adherents.

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UK-USSR

Despite Moscow's strong reaction, London is determined to follow through on its decision to expel some 90 Soviet officials and to refuse re-entry rights to 15 others on espionage charges. The expulsion had been planned for some months, but London had delayed because the four-power talks on Berlin were nearing conclusion. A British Foreign Ministry official has explained that information provided by a Soviet defector strengthened the government's resolve, and that a newspaper leak on the defector actually triggered the move.

The British are answering Soviet protests by saying that any reconsideration is out of the question and that further pressure on London will only damage diplomatic relations still further. Should there be Soviet reprisals, the UK is prepared to respond with even greater restrictions on the still large Soviet mission in London. The British are seeking, however, to divert the Soviets from retaliation by reminding them of broader concerns of European security and general problems of Anglo-Soviet relations.

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USSR - FEDERATION OF ARAB REPUBLICS

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Although the Soviets have in the past given qualified support to Arab federation efforts, Moscow has been decidedly cool to the new grouping. In the wake of the anti-Communist repression in the Sudan, the Soviets are apprehensive about the ideological hostility of the Federation's leaders, who could be joined shortly by Sudanese President Numayri. They have been particularly wary of Libya's Qadhafi, who is intensely anti-Communist. It is doubtful, however, that the group as a whole has adopted such an ambitious program against Arab Communists as the Soviet ambassador alleges.

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NOTES

USSR: Luna 19, launched from Tyuratam yesterday with an SL-12 booster, is expected to arrive in the vicinity of the moon on 2 October and will probably be placed in orbit there.

Chile-USSR: The Chilean arms purchasing mission that visited the USSR and Eastern Europe last month is reported to have obtained a Soviet credit

[redacted] the army, with encouragement from Allende, is sufficiently eager to update its antiquated material and add to its weaponry to accept aid from Moscow. Also, Allende apparently has been able to exploit the army's genuine need for equipment to enhance his standing with the military and to de-emphasize its dependence on the West.

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